

compressing said plurality of wooden boards vertically so that the top surfaces of said plurality of wooden boards are co-planar and concurrently compressing said plurality of wooden boards transversely before revolvingly embedding at least three spaced apart helical pins;

positioning a drill at a lateral outside edge of said plurality of wooden boards and a pin press at an opposite outside edge of said plurality of wooden boards:

said drill having a drilling axis;

said pin press having a pin press axis;

said drilling axis and said pin press axis substantially aligned;

drilling holes transversely through said plurality of wooden boards

revolvingly embedding said at least three spaced apart pins transversely through said plurality of wooden boards by forcing said helical pins through said holes, normal to said sides of said plurality of wooden boards, and normal to said lengthwise direction of said plurality of wooden boards, each of said at least three spaced helical pins having helical threads said helical pins having an outer thread diameter and further having a root thread diameter, said drilled hole having a hole diameter; and said hole diameter greater than said thread root diameter and less than said outer thread diameter; and

subsequently removing the compression on said plurality of wooden boards;

whereby said drilling step and said forcing step are sequentially performed while said plurality of wooden boards are laterally and vertically compressed and the helical threads of said plurality of helical pins become anchored within each of said wooden boards thereby fixing and maintaining said wooden boards in relative position.

16.(NEW) A method as in claim 15 further comprising aligning said plurality of

2126
A1
Cont.

FOOTNOTES

wooden boards such that their ends form a substantially continuous surface before revolvingly embedding said at least three spaced helical pins.

13 17.(NEW) A method as in claim 15 further comprising:

each of said at least three spaced helical pins is a twist lock pin having a square cross section.

14 18.(NEW) A method of increasing the strength of a wooden scaffolding plank comprising the steps of:

cutting said plank longitudinally into a plurality of wooden plank sections;

positioning said plurality of wooden plank sections in side to side parallel abutment with the wood grains of said plurality of wooden plank sections having alternating directions, each of said wooden plank sections including two sides and a lengthwise direction, each of said sides being flat and having a height and said height being the smallest dimension of said wooden plank sections;

compressing said plurality of wooden boards vertically so that the top surfaces of said plurality of wooden boards are co-planar and concurrently compressing said plurality of wooden boards transversely before revolvingly embedding at least three spaced helical pins;

and a pin press at an opposite outside edge of said plurality of wooden boards;

said drill having a drilling axis;

a pin press having a pin press axis;

said drilling axis and said pin press axis substantially aligned;

drilling holes transversely through said plurality of wooden boards, said helical pins having an outer thread diameter and further having a root thread diameter,

said drilled holes having a hole diameter; and

said hole diameter being greater than said thread root diameter and less than said outer thread diameter;

revolvingly embedding said at least three spaced helical pins transversely through said plurality of wooden plank sections by forcing said helical pins through said holes, normal to said sides of said plurality of wooden plank sections, and normal to said lengthwise direction of said plurality of wooden plank sections, each of said at least three spaced helical pins having helical threads; and

subsequently removing the compression on said plurality of wooden boards;

whereby said drilling step and said forcing step are sequentially performed while said plurality of wooden boards are laterally and vertically compressed and the helical threads of said at least three spaced helical pins become anchored within each of said plurality of wooden plank sections thereby fixing and maintaining said wooden plank sections in relative position.

14
15 ~~18~~ (NEW) A method as in claim 18 further comprising aligning said plurality of wooden plank sections such that their ends form a substantially continuous surface before revolvingly embedding said at least three spaced helical pins.

16 14
~~20~~ (NEW) A method as in claim 18 wherein each of said at least three spaced helical pins is a twist lock pin having a square cross section.

REMARKS

The amendments are those suggested by the examiner in the Examiner's Answer, in the parent application, indicating the original claims 4 and 9 would be patentable if presented in independent form.